

Abstract of the Disclosure

2 A dynamic services infrastructure accepts data describing data resources and stores that
3 data in a relational database from which it may be retrieved to handle service requests issued by
4 application programs. The database stores Service Definition data which is initially supplied in
5 the form of XML Service Descriptor documents which are then mapped into the database from
6 which they may be accessed. Each Service Definition includes an input specification which
7 identifies the address of a resource as well as the nature of the input data to be supplied to the
8 resource with the request, and further includes an output specification which describes the nature
9 of the output information which is supplied by the resource in response to the request. The
10 Service Definition further includes information describing the service provider which supplies
11 the resource, test information including fixed input and output values which permit the
12 operability of the resource to be verified, update information which permits the infrastructure to
13 insure that the Service Definition information is kept current, and security information which
14 permits the system to validate users and provide secure encrypted information exchanges. When
15 a client sends a request for services to the infrastructure, obtains the service description for the
16 desired resource from the database, transmits an output information request to the address
17 specified in said the service description, supplying input information meeting the specification
18 contained in said particular service description to said particular resource, and receives and routes
19 output information provided by said particular resource in response to said output information
20 request to the executing application program.